GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:779
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
TASK FORCE ON INTER LINKING OF RIVERS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted for linking of rivers has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Task Force; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement its recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Task Force submitted Action Plan I and Action Plan II in April, 2003 and 2004 respectively

(b) Recommendations of Task Force are:

(i) Task Force got prepared Terms of Reference (TOR) for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) through M/s Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) for providing guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects.

(ii) On the issue of suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States, Task Force has suggested meeting at the highest level to agree after the technical-level discussions with emphasis that outstanding issues should be such that they can be addressed in Detailed Project Report stage.

(iii) The Task Force has stated that the peninsular links are the right component to begin with. Top priority links identified by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers are under:
a) Ken-Betwa link UP & MP
b) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link MP & Rajasthan

(iv) On the basis of report from IIM-Ahmedabad, a two tier institutional/organizational setup has been suggested for the implementation of the programme on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) along with a Council - `National River Water Development Council (NRWDC)` to act as the apex body of the proposed setup. The National Authority for Interlinking of Rivers (NAILR) is proposed as the first tier of the proposed two tier organizational structure and the regional or branch offices or subsidiaries would act as `Link Instrument` and are proposed as the second tier of the organizational setup.

(v) Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers consulted ICICI for funding options. ICICI has proposed that funding should be partly through public, public-private and private inputs. The exact requirement on realistic basis will be available only after the preparation of Detailed project Report (DPR) of all the links.

Based on NWDA studies, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated that the cost of ILR project would be Rs. 4,44,331.20 crore which is 21-22% lower than the rough estimate of Rs. 5.60 lakh crore. NCAER is of the view that the programme would take nearly 35 - 40 years. However, with use of modern construction and Remote Sensing techniques, the programme at best could be completed in 25 years.

(vi) A Working Group on International dimensions constituted by Task Force on ILR has also suggested that at the present juncture, it is too early, to pursue the matter further at high political levels with the Government of Nepal. Regarding Bangladesh, it has been suggested that the Government of Bangladesh will continue to raise the ILR issue in Joint River Commission and possibly in other bilateral fora. India should respond by reiterating the line taken in the JRC i.e., ILR is a concept, not a single project

(c) The Government constituted a Special Cell in December, 2004 to take up the follow-up action on the implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme.